

**California Department of Conservation  
FARMLAND MAPPING AND MONITORING PROGRAM**

**2014 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** Michael Kisko

**FIELD MAPPER(S):** Santa Barbara

**IMAGE DATA USED:**

Source: National Agriculture Imagery Program, USDA
Acquisition date: Summer 2014
Data description: True color mosaic, 1 meter resolution
Coverage gaps: Western, coastal areas of the county around Vandenberg AFB
Additional imagery used: None

**WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES:**

*The following entities and individuals provided information used to conduct 2014 mapping.*

Local Review Comments (submitted by cities, counties, & others on 2012 maps)
None
Personal Contacts
None
Websites Used for Reference
Google Maps: <a href="http://www.google.com/maps">www.google.com/maps</a>
GIS Data Used for Reference
California City Boundary Layer Santa Barbara County Base Map

**2012-2014 CHANGE SUMMARY:**

*Changes made during the map update are summarized by type and location. Particular attention is paid to large or unusual changes and their estimated acreages. Please note that land use type, size of land use unit, soil quality, and Farmland of Local Importance definition (if any) determines the final Important Farmland (IFL) category. [See definitions](#) at bottom of table.*

<b>Conversions to Urban Land</b>	
Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land	3 changes
<p>Conversions from irrigated farmland to Urban Land consisted of the Lineage Logistics warehouse (~10 acres), the build out of structures and paved parking at the Central City Cooling facility (~10 acres) and a small solar array (~5 acres) that were newly constructed, all in the Santa Maria area.</p>	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	12 changes
<p>These conversions were primarily due to new homes, apartments, office and educational buildings, paved parking and a sports field.</p> <p>In Lompoc, new buildings, paved parking, and a sports field at Allan Hancock College (~30 acres) as well as new homes in the Briar Creek development (~15 acres) were the primary causes of urbanization. Meanwhile, Goleta saw the addition of offices for the deckers Outdoor Corporation (~15 acres) and a couple additions of new homes (~20 acres). In Orcutt, approximately 30 acres of homes were added along the southern edge of the community, with about half of the additions occurring in the Rice Ranch development. Further, Santa Maria saw the addition of approximately 25 acres of homes and apartments, primarily around the Westgate Ranch development. Finally, new homes were added in Carpinteria (~10 acres) and in Solvang (~20 acres) in the Skytt Mesa development.</p>	
<b>Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization</b>	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	54 changes
<p>These changes were primarily due to irrigated farmland or pastureland having been fallow for three or more update cycles. The majority of these changes were for 20 acres or less and were distributed throughout the county.</p> <p>Further, eight of the changes were due to areas of formerly irrigated farmland that have converted to growing nonirrigated grain crops for at least three update cycles. These areas will be converted to Farmland of Local Importance.</p>	
Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	4 changes
<p>These conversions were primarily due to areas of formerly irrigated farmland that have been fallow for three updates and were shifted to the Other Land category due to their small size and the presence of low density development or natural vegetation. These changes were generally 10-15 acres in size with all of the changes accounting for approximately 60 acres of conversion from irrigated farmland to Other Land.</p>	
<b>Conversions to Irrigated Farmland</b>	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	83 changes
<p>Additions of irrigated farmland were primarily due to new row crops and alfalfa in the Cuyama Valley and vineyards and row crops in the rest of the county. These additions were generally smaller than 30 acres and were distributed throughout the agricultural areas of the county.</p>	

The largest conversion to irrigated farmland this update occurred on the southern end of the Cuyama Valley where approximately 500 acres of row crops were added alongside Foothill Road on Bolthouse Farms. Meanwhile, approximately 130 acres of row crops were added just west of New Cuyama with another approximately 110-acre addition to the south of New Cuyama on Duncan Farms. Finally, alfalfa (~100 acres) was added alongside State Route 33, north of Ventucopa.

Meanwhile, outside the Cuyama Valley, approximately 250 acres of vineyards were a new addition nearby Kelly Canyon to the east of Sisquoc. On the other hand, approximately 160 acres of new row crops were in evidence to the southwest of Betteravia, alongside Highway 1. Further, approximately 150 acres of row crops were added at various locations around Santa Maria. The Santa Rita Valley area saw the addition of approximately 90 acres of new vineyards. Likewise, approximately 60 acres of new vineyards were added in the Los Alamos Valley area. Lastly, new orchards (~50 acres), possibly avocados, were an addition in the hills to the northwest of Santa Barbara.

### Unusual Changes

(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2014 update.)

Conversions between Irrigated Farmland (P,S,U) categories: There were two instances where nurseries were delineated growing stock in containers. This type of change in land use category causes shifts between irrigated farmland categories since nursery stock grown in pots is always mapped as Unique Farmland, regardless of the underlying soil type.

### Areas of Concern for Future Updates

(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2016 update, and reasons.)

None

### Definitions:

**Irrigated Farmland** includes most irrigated crops grown in California. When combined with soil data, these farmed areas become the Important Farmland (IFL) categories of Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance & Unique Farmland. Because of the nature of the IFL definitions, some irrigated uses, such as irrigated pastures or nurseries, may not be eligible for all three IFL categories.

**Nonirrigated land uses** include grazing areas, land used for dryland crop farming, and formerly irrigated land that has been left idle for three or more update cycles. These uses are frequently incorporated into county Farmland of Local Importance definitions.

**Other Land** includes a variety of miscellaneous uses, such as low density rural residential development, mining areas, vacant areas and nonagricultural vegetation. Confined animal agriculture facilities are mapped as Other Land unless incorporated into a county Farmland of Local Importance definition.

**Urban Land** includes residential, industrial, recreational, infrastructure and institutional uses.

For more on map categories, including Farmland of Local Importance definitions, visit the [FMMP web site](#).

**LABOR ESTIMATE:**

*Time estimates for conducting the 2014 update.*

Image interpretation, start date: February 26, 2016
Image interpretation, number of days: 13
Ground truth dates: May 9-12, 2016
Number of days for post-ground truth clean-up: 3

*Further information on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program can be found at:*

<http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/Pages/Index.aspx>